(b) The DPC for selection to Junior Administrative Grade, Selection Grade and Senior Administrative Grade consists of Chairman, Railway Board, who is ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Govt, of India, Financial Commissioner (Railways) and all other Members, of Railway Board who are of the rank of Secretary to the Govt, of India. The panels are approved by the Minister of Railways on behalf of the President. This is a very high level DPC, totally objective and fair. The cases of SC/ST officers are considered with due care as per extant instructions and cases where officers are found infit for em-panelment are submitted to the Minister of Railways at the time of approval of the panel.

(c) and (d) SC/ST officers who are found fit and are within the number of vacancies for posts upto Rs. 5,700"- are empanelled, as per extant instructions. It is not correct that any benefit/relaxation available for SC/ST officers has been denied to them.

Accidents involving hazardous chemicals

2585. SHRIMATI MALT SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents involving hazardous chemicals have increased with the rapid growth of chemical industries;

(b) if so, the details of such accidents during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) As per information made available by the State Chief Inspector of Factories, no increasing trend is discernible in respect of major accidents in the last three years in chemical industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps required for prevention of accidents due to the handling of hazardous chemicals have been laid down in the relevant sections of the Factories Act, 1948, as amended in 1987 and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified with a view to prevent accidents and minimise effects of accidents both on man and the environment. A yearly inspection of the industries by the con-cerned authority, the State Inspectorate of Factories, conduct of mock drill of the on-site plan every six months and suomis--sion of the report of the trial by the occupier are also mandatory. Preparation of safety report and conduct of periodic safety audit is also laid down in the rules. A comprehensive guide to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and a Manual on Emergency Preparendness for Chemical Hazards have been brougbt out to facili-tate better compliance by the concerned industries and the regulatory agencies.

Amendments to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, enhancing' the scope by way of redefining hazardous chemicals based on UN definition, is under discussion. A set of rules entitled "Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 has been notified on 2nd August,1996. These rules envisage a 4-tier system for management of chemical accidents in the country.

बिहार में जाली रेलवे पास संबंधी रैकेट

2586. श्री रमा देव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 10 अगस्त, 1996 के "दि टाइम्स आॅफ इंडिया" (दिल्ली संस्करण) में 'रैकेट इन फेक रेलवे पासेस थ्राइविंग इन बिहार' शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस रैकेट के संबंध में कोई जांच कराई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उक्त जांच के बाद सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी हां।

(ख) फिलहाल इस संबंध में अखबारों में जो आया है उससे अधिक ब्यौरा उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) मामले की जांच की जा रही है जांच का काम अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है।

Flood affected rail lines in Gujarat

2587. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past some railway tracks passing through the tribal areas in the State of Gujarat were washed away by flood waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these railway lines have not been restored causing difficulties to the inhabitants of these areas in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when Government propose to restore these railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The sections are

i) Chhotaudepur-Bodelli
ii) Anklcshwar-Rajpipla
iii) Jhagadiya-Netrang
iv) Kosamba-Umarpada

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The lines have not been restored, but these sections have adequate road connections to serve the needs of the inhabitants of the area. Restoration of the sections would involve heavy cost which would be uneconomical in view of the meagre traffic.

Rail coach factory in Orissa

2588. SHRI MAURICE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a rail coach factory in Orissa, particularly in its tribal areas;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) No. Sir. There are two coach manufacturing units with Indian Railways,, one at Madras and one at Kapurthala. Each factory can manufacture about 1000 coaches per year. In addition, there are two factories in the Public Sector that are capable of manufacturing coaches.

With the available coach manufacturing capacity ia. the country, there is-, no justification to set up another- coach manufacturing unit.

Intensive Cotton Development Programme

2589. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to amount disbursed, district-wise, to the cotton growing. States during the last three years under the modified Intensive Cotton Development Programme;

(b) the activities which are taken up under this programme;

(c) the quantifiable difference in cotton production due to this programme; and

(d) the steps to be taken to popularise this programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Funds are released under the scheme bv